

2013 JUN 19 PM 12:42

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on EthicsOFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## MEMBER / OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

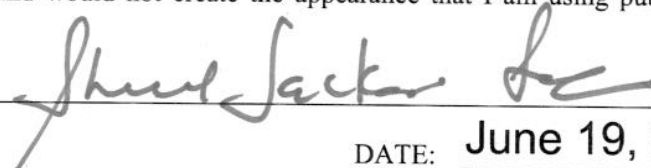
This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual Financial Disclosure Statement. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must **complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Sheila Jackson Lee
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒  
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: May 27, 2013 Return: May 30, 2013  
b. Dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒
4. Departure city: Houston, TX Destination: Baku, Azerbaijan Return city: Houston, TX
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): The Member was briefed on energy issues and Customs and Border issues.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):  
a. ☒ a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;  
b. ☒ the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;  
c. ☒ page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the Member or officer; **and**  
d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda. (Signify that statement is true by checking box): ☒  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER:

DATE: June 19, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)
2. Travel Destination(s): Houston-Baku-Houston
3. Date of Departure: May 27, 2013 Date of Return: May 30, 2013
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Sheila Jackson Lee  
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$11,563.90	\$320	\$150	--
Accompanying Relative				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box): ☒

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Kemal Oksuz

Title: President

Organization: Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box): ☒

Address: 2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1750

Houston, TX 77056

Telephone number: (713) 622 9200

Email Address: kemal\_oksuz@tcae.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)
3. Travel destination(s): Baku, Azerbaijan
4. a. Date of departure May 27, 2013 Date of return: May 30, 2013  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes:  
(1) Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
Rep. Jackson Lee represents Houston, TX the energy capital of the US,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? ☐ Yes ☒ No

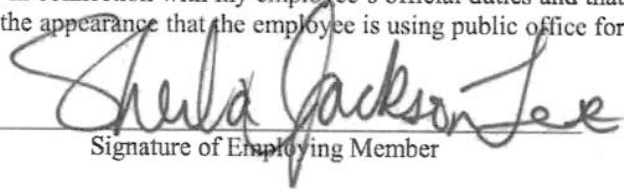
10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

**ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL**

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: 04/25/13

  
Signature of Employing Member

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)
3. Travel destination(s): Baku, Azerbaijan
4. a. Date of departure May 27, 2013 Date of return: May 30, 2013  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes:  
(1) Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
The Member will be briefed on energy issues of vital importance to her constituents in Houston and Customs and Border issues related to the Members work on the Homeland Security Committee.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? ☐ Yes ☐ No

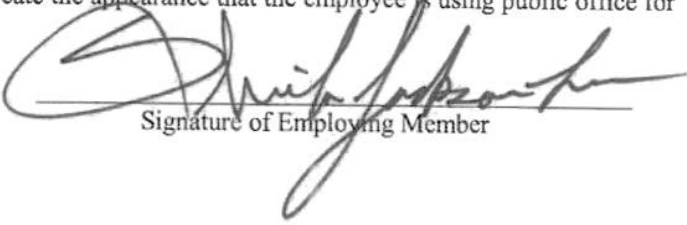
10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: 4/25/13

  
Signature of Employing Member

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

**PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM**

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians (TCAE)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒
3. Check only one: I represent that:
  - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip ☒ or
  - b. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities ☐ or
  - c. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds. ☐
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):  
Please See the Attached List!
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
6. Date of departure: May 27, 2013 Date of return: May 30, 2013
7. a. City of departure: Houston  
b. Destination(s): Baku  
c. City of return: Houston
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
  - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: ☐ or
  - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: ☒ or
  - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations. ☐
9. Check one of the following:
  - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above: ☒
  - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging: ☐
  - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: ☐ or
  - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights: ☐  
If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box): ☒

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒ or

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

TCAE is nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization which is committed to establishing and advancing long-term relationships and close cooperation between US and Azerbaijan. To introduce and provide exposure to Azerbaijan's military, regional, energy security and economic issues. To promote mutual understanding through conversation.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☒ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

\_\_\_\_\_

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: ☐ or

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation: ☒

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$75 per day!

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Azerbaijan stands as a very critical ally for US in the region from energy diversification, geopolitical position and regional security issues.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Four Seasons Baku City: Baku Cost per night: \$160

Reason(s) for selecting: Our agreement and their great service!

Hotel name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_



17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$13,388	\$320	\$150
For each accompanying relative			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$25	Tipping
For each accompanying relative		

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

19. Check one:  
a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. ☒ *or*  
b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐  
20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip. ☒  
21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name:

Kemal Oksuz

Title:

President

Organization:

Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians

Address:

2700 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 2750 Houston, TX 77056

Telephone number:

+1 713 622.9200-office, +1 773 396 8669-cell

Email address:

kemal\_oksuz@tcae.org - kemaloksuz@gmail.com

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103 (phone)  
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Version date 2/2013 by Committee on Ethics

K. Michael Conaway, Texas  
*Chairman*  
Linda T. Sánchez, California  
*Ranking Member*

Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania  
Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania  
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina  
Susan W. Brooks, Indiana

Pedro R. Pierluisi, Puerto Rico  
Michael E. Capuano, Massachusetts  
Yvette D. Clarke, New York  
Ted Deutch, Florida



ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

May 20, 2013

Daniel A. Schwager  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Joanne White  
*Administrative Staff Director*

Jackie M. Barber  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

Daniel J. Taylor  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2160 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Azerbaijan, scheduled for May 27 to 30, 2013, sponsored by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$350 from a single source on Schedule VII of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement.

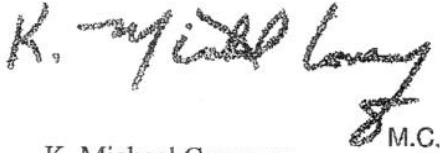
Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$350] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$350 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.



The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
Page 2

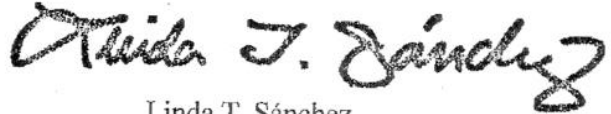
If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of K. Michael Conaway in black ink.

K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman

M.C.

Handwritten signature of Linda T. Sanchez in black ink.

Linda T. Sanchez  
Ranking Member

KMC/LTS:tn

# TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS

Sponsors & Organizes

US Congressional Member Trip to Azerbaijan

May 27<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013



## ITINERARY

### MONDAY, May 27 (HOUSTON)

6:30 PM Departure for Azerbaijan (by Lufthansa LH7600)

### TUESDAY, May 28 (BAKU, AZERBAIJAN)

8:55 PM Arrival in Baku

9:45 PM Transfer to Hotel & Check in (Four Seasons Baku)  
Overnight Stay

### WEDNESDAY, May 29 (BAKU)

9:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:00 AM Briefing at Hotel by the US Ambassador to Azerbaijan

11:00 AM Keynote address at US-Azerbaijan Convention Opening (US-Azerbaijan  
Shared Vision for Future in the Caspian Basin)

12:00 PM Briefing at Customs and Border Security (Border Security Issues and Challenges  
with Iran and Russia)

12:45 PM Briefing at the Parliament of Azerbaijan and Meet with the Speaker of the  
Parliament (US-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Relations)

1:30 PM Lunch & Remarks at US-Azerbaijan Convention (US-Azerbaijan Strategic Statehood)

2:30 PM Visit to with the President of Azerbaijan

3:30 PM Briefing at State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (Southern Energy Corridor  
and Eurasian Energy Security)

4:30 PM Briefing at the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (Issues & Challenges: Next  
Steps to be Taken at US-Azerbaijan Relations)

5:30 PM Back to Hotel & Rest

7:00 PM Dinner & Gala at US-Azerbaijan Convention (Together with American and Azerbaijani  
Dignitaries)

9:00 PM Back to Hotel

10:00 PM Overnight Stay

**THURSDAY, May 30 (BAKU)**

4:15 AM      Flight back to US by Lufthansa (LH613)  
1:50 PM      Arrival in Houston

\* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited in place of the honorable hosts.  
"Have a Safe flight back to US!"

**TURQUOISE COUNCIL OF AMERICANS AND EURASIANS  
HOUSE INVITEES**

**US Congressional Member Trip to Azerbaijan  
May 27, 2013 – May 30, 2013**



Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians has outlined the following specific objectives for the trip that why the House of Representatives have been invited:

- To introduce and provide broad exposure to the country's cultural, political, security, economic, and social issues,
- To gain an understanding of topics including national and regional security, energy security, foreign policy, trade, economic development & finance, remarkable achievements of the civil society, religious diversity and minority rights,
- To promote mutual understanding through dialogue and discussion among the American participants and the local authorities / civil society.

**Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
US Congressman (D-Texas 18<sup>th</sup>)**